



CALFED  
BAY-DELTA  
PROGRAM

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Date: August 16, 1996

To: Agency Representatives (List attached)

From: Lester A. Snow, Executive Director  
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Subject: Assessment Methods for Fish Species

To conduct the analysis of the program alternatives, CALFED is working to identify the available assessment methods for use in the impact analysis for the Programmatic Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS). We are requesting your continued input to help determine the most appropriate assessment methods for evaluating the effects of the CALFED Program alternatives on fish species.

You are invited to attend CALFED working sessions, beginning with two in late August, to discuss assessment methods for fish species. These meetings are a follow-up to the CALFED focused work sessions held on June 21, 1996, and in response to the written feedback received after those sessions (see enclosed). These meetings will be more focused and detailed than the previous work session, and will concentrate on development of the best methods to evaluate the impacts and benefits of CALFED actions at a programmatic level. These first two meetings will also establish the process for ongoing coordination and work on the CALFED programmatic impact assessment for fish.

We have organized the August meetings by species. As indicated by the list of invitees, we would appreciate your attendance at the fish species meeting specific to your expertise, but you are welcome to attend both meetings. If you know of someone else who may be able to assist us in this process, and would be interested in participating in these meetings, please feel free to invite them.

Thursday, August 22, 1996

9a.m. - 12p.m.

Striped Bass, Shad, Sturgeon  
Smelt, and Splittail

Tuesday, August 27, 1996  
Trout

9a.m. - 12p.m.

Chinook Salmon and Steelhead

The purposes of the August meetings are:

- establish and maintain clear lines of communication between CALFED staff and agency experts;

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CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency  
Department of Fish and Game  
Department of Water Resources  
California Environmental Protection Agency  
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency  
Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Department of Commerce  
National Marine Fisheries Service

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- discuss how comments received during and after the focussed work session on the June 21, 1996, have been incorporated into the development of the impact assessment process;
- review and identify the species, life stages, and assessment variables proposed for inclusion in the impact assessment methods;
- identify the applicability of quantitative and qualitative methods for each assessment variable; and
- discuss specific assessment methods that may be used to evaluate differences between alternatives included in the Programmatic EIR/EIS.

The work sessions are part of an ongoing process to develop impact assessment methods for the CALFED Program. In an effort to make these work sessions as productive as possible, please review the enclosed information and come prepared with ideas and suggestions on how to improve the process. The agenda, meeting location (in Sacramento) and directions, and other pertinent information for both August meetings are attached.

If you have any questions, call Wendy Halverson Martin at (916) 657-2666.

Attachments

Agency Representatives  
Invitee list  
Meeting agendas  
Meeting location and directions  
Lists of species, life stages, and assessment variables  
Example assessment methods  
Questions for discussion  
DFG comment letter  
Summary of Key Points from June 21, 1996 Work Session

August 16, 1996

**AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES:**

(Invitees for Assessment Methods for Fish Methods)

Rick Soehren, CALFED  
Sharon Gross, CALFED  
Dick Daniel, CALFED  
Jim Starr, DFG  
Pete Chadwick, DFG  
Frank Wernette, DFG  
Jim White, DFG  
Jim Arthur, USBR  
Mike Thabault, USFWS  
Bruce Herbold, USEPA  
Leo Winternitz, DWR  
Ken Lentz, USBR  
Dave Kolhorst, DFG  
Dale Sweetnam, DFG  
Randy Baxter, DFG  
Bill Snyder, DFG  
Terry Mills, DFG  
Roger Guinee, USFWS  
Mike Fris, USFWS  
Marty Kjelson, USFWS  
Pat Brandes, USFWS  
Mike Aceituno, USFWS  
Chris Mobley, NMFS